

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated February 9, 2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the computer system receives the interaction data via a relay device. Claim 1 further specifies that the computer system identifies the telecommunication address of the relay device as part of the registration. Corresponding amendments have been made to system claim 15, and claims 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Basis for these amendments can be found at page 33, lines 39 *et seq* of the specification.

The Applicant contests the Examiner's assertion that claim 1 is obvious in view of the primary prior art reference, Norris. Norris teaches a registration protocol for a digital pen. Norris's invention is concerned with the use of biometric identity data, which is associated with the pen at registration, and then checked each time the pen interacts with the system. Figure 1 of Norris shows the various interactions of the pen with other devices and networks.

Norris's system, then, relies on the registration protocol, described in detail at paragraphs [0061 and 0062]:

[0061] In step 310, the process starts. In step 320, the user obtains a digital pen 10 for use with the service. In step 322, the user registers the device, thereby creating a security profile having biometric data. In one embodiment, the user appears at the office of the authentication server 80 agent to present identification and to provide a writing sample or samples such as a handwritten signature. In an alternative, other biometric information may be collected such as a retinal scan.

[0062] Thereafter, the user account is established and the user may utilize the system to obtain authentication data including authentication indications such as signed codes from the trusted third party authentication server 80. Optionally, the authentication data may include data processed with added services such as address cleansing and may also include sender data and mail processing data such as routing information.

During registration of the pen, the user produces authentic writing samples (*e.g.* signatures), which are stored with the pen's registration. This creates a security profile for each pen user, which can be subsequently referred to each time the pen is used. The registered security profile is consistent and permanently stored in Norris's system.

On the other hand, the present invention provides an alternative to Norris's secure registration system. In the present invention, a computer system allocates a temporary registration to the pen. The temporary registration process harvests a telecommunication address from a relay device during pen interaction, and allocates this address to the sensing device. Subsequently, if the user uses a different relay device (*e.g.* mobile phone) to transmit data to the computer system, then the first temporary registration can be cancelled and a new temporary registration with a new telecommunication address registered with the system. Hence, the present invention enables users to interact anonymously with the

computer system, for example, to enter competitions anonymously under a temporary user registration. An anonymous competition entry may be performed without the requirement to formally register the pen with the system.

Accordingly, the present invention obviates the pen registration system described by Norris, whilst still allowing users to interact with the system using their pens. In the present invention, a user may choose anonymity if he prefers, or he may choose to interact with the system under his registered username. Norris fails to provide this option to users.

Since Norris fails to teach or suggest the temporary registration protocol of the present invention, it is submitted that the present invention, as defined in claims 1 and 15, is not obvious in view of Norris, either when taken alone or when combined with Braun.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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